

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

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21 April 1986

Mr. Leo Cherne

STAT

Dear Leo:

I can't tell you how much I appreciated both your note and your going to all the trouble to come to Washington for the swearing in. One of the biggest debts I owe Bill Casey over the last five years has been the opportunity through him to get to know you. Your friendship and respect mean a great deal to me.

Again, I deeply appreciate your coming from New York for the ceremony.

Regards,


Robert M. Gates

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LEO CHERNE

DDI- 01244/kl

STAT

March 5, 1986

Mr. Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Room 7E44 - Headquarters
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bob:

Though I have already verbally conveyed my extreme pleasure when you told me of your upcoming appointment, I feel compelled to express my feelings more formally.

In the five years since PFIAB was restored to existence, there has not been a single occasion (and happily, there have been a number of them) on which my relationship with you has been other than thoughtful, generous and totally cooperative.

But my feelings are greater than that. I cannot honestly recall a single appointment made by the President within this period of time which more excites my admiration. The only hitch is that you will be leaving two very sizeable responsibilities that are of enormous importance and your shoes will not easily fit someone else, though the wisdom of this move leads me to believe that filling those responsibilities will be done with comparable wisdom and skill.

My one hope is that as Deputy DCI the contact between us does not diminish, and you can be certain that wherever it is I can be helpful, I am eager to be.

I am in the process of going through a 50 year accumulation of papers because the Research Institute will be moving its quarters a month from now. In the course of doing so, I ran across testimony which the Pike Committee requested that three of us give the last

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day of their hearings. Though no member of PFIAB had previously, to my knowledge, testified, I was strongly encouraged to do so. Since the Pike Committee was disbanded by the Congress and no report filed, I don't even know how I got this testimony.

Incidentally, Bill Colby spoke later that day for the community. I think you will find my remarks interesting, whether you altogether agree with my eccentricities or not.

With my congratulations and appreciation.

Sincerely,



Leo Cherne

LC/cl
encl